

Appln No. 10/080,818
Amdt date March 15, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 21, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A barrel hinge, comprising:

a cylindrical female barrel portion having a cylindrical sidewall with an aperture formed therein, a length, two ends, and an outside surface, and an axial bore, having an interior wall surface and a diameter, the axial bore extending from end to end;

a first and second male barrel portion, each male barrel portion having a cylindrical main body portion with an outer surface, and a pin extension, the pin extension having a pin length and pin diameter, the pin extensions having ends, the pin diameter being sized to be rotatably received within the axial bore of the female barrel portion, wherein the sum of the pin lengths of the pin extensions of the first and second male barrel portions is less than the length of the axial bore of the female barrel portion, such that when the pin extensions of the first and second male barrel portion are fully inserted into the interior bore of the female barrel portion, a cavity is defined by the space between the ends of the first and second pin extensions and the axial bore, which cavity is in the vicinity of the aperture in the sidewall of the female barrel portion; and

a lubricant fitting affixed within the aperture in the sidewall of the female barrel portion.

2. (Currently amended) The barrel hinge of claim 1, wherein the two ends of the female barrel portion are beveled where the outside surface meets the two ends, and wherein the main body portions of the male barrel portions are beveled where the pin extensions extend therefrom to form a groove in interface regions where the bevels at the two ends of the female barrel portion are adjacent to bevels where the pin extensions extend from the main body portions.

3. (Original) The barrel hinge of claim 1, wherein the aperture in the sidewall of the female barrel portion is threaded and the lubricant fitting is threadably engaged therewith.

Appln No. 10/080,818
Amdt date March 15, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 21, 2005

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The barrel hinge of claim 1, wherein the female barrel portion comprises a section of seamless cylindrical tubing.

6. (Original) The barrel hinge of claim 1, wherein each of the male barrel portions is formed from a section of bar stock with the pin extension portions being formed by machining at one end thereof.

7. (Original) The barrel hinge of claim 1, wherein each of the male barrel portions is formed from a section of tubing stock with the pin extension portions machined at one end thereof.

8. (Original) The barrel hinge of claim 1, wherein the first and second male barrel portions are identical.

9. (Currently amended) A three-piece barrel hinge, comprising:

a cylindrical female barrel portion having a length, two ends, and [[an]] a cylindrical outside surface, an axial bore with a diameter extending from end to end therethrough, and an aperture formed on a sidewall;

a lubricant fitting placed in the aperture; and

a first and second male barrel portion, each male barrel portion having a cylindrical main body portion and a pin extension having a pin length, a pin diameter, and a pin end, the pin diameter being sized to be rotatably received within the axial bore of the female barrel portion, wherein when the pin extensions of the first and second barrel portions are inserted into the axial bore of the female barrel portion, the pin ends are spaced apart to define a cavity therebetween, which cavity is in the vicinity of the lubricant fitting.

Appln No. 10/080,818
Amdt date March 15, 2006
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10. (Currently amended) The barrel hinge of claim 9, wherein the two ends of the female barrel portion are beveled where the outside surface meets the two ends, and wherein the main body portions of the male barrel portions are beveled where the pin extensions extend therefrom to form a groove in interface regions where the bevels at the two ends of the female barrel portion are adjacent to bevels where the pin extensions extend from the main body portions.

11. (Original) The barrel hinge of claim 9, wherein the aperture in the sidewall of the female barrel portion is threaded and the lubricant fitting is threadably engaged therewith.

12. (Original) The barrel hinge of claim 9, wherein the lubricant fitting is press fitted into the aperture in the sidewall of the female barrel portion.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The barrel hinge of claim 9, wherein the female barrel portion comprises a section of seamless cylindrical tubing.

15. (Original) The barrel hinge of claim 9, wherein each of the male barrel portions is formed from a section of bar stock with the pin extension portions being formed at one end thereof.

16. (Original) The barrel hinge of claim 9, wherein each of the male barrel portions is formed from a section of tubing stock with the pin extension portions machined at one end thereof.

17. (Previously presented) A three-piece barrel hinge, comprising:

a female barrel portion made from a section of seamless cylindrical tubing having a length, two ends, a tubing wall with an outside surface, an interior bore with a diameter extending from end to end therethrough, and an aperture is formed in the tubing wall;

a lubricant fitting affixed within the aperture in the tubing wall of the female portion;

Appln No. 10/080,818
Amdt date March 15, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 21, 2005

a first and second male barrel portion, each male barrel portion having a cylindrical main body portion and a unitary pin extension having a pin length, a pin diameter, and a pin end, the pin diameter being sized to be received within the interior bore of the female barrel portion, wherein when the pin extensions of the first and second male barrel portions are inserted into the interior bore of the female barrel portion, the pin ends are spaced apart, and wherein the cylindrical main body portion of each male barrel portion and the cylindrical female body portion are adapted to be welded to objects to which the barrel hinge will be attached without additional attachment features.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The three-piece barrel hinge of claim 9, wherein the cylindrical female barrel portion and the cylindrical first and second male barrel portion are ~~are~~ adapted for welding to objects to which the barrel hinge will be attached without additional attachment features.

20. (Currently amended) The three-piece barrel hinge of claim 17, wherein the cylindrical female barrel portion and the cylindrical first and second male barrel portion are ~~are~~ adapted for welding to objects to which the barrel hinge will be attached without additional attachment features.